THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

Agenda of the AMS Governance Committee, June 30, 2020

Attendance

Present: Sebastian Cooper (Chair), Carter Maclean, Christopher Hakim, Danny Liu, Georgia Yee, Nicola Vanderveer, Ryan Wong, Sheldon Goldfarb

Guests: Katherine Westerlund

Regrets: Carter Maclean

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm

Agenda Items

Territorial Acknowledgement

Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Sebastian Seconded: Chris

That the agenda be adopted.

*The motion carries unanimously.*

Approval of Past Minutes

Moved: Sebastian Seconded: Ryan

That the minutes of June 9 and June 16, 2020 be approved

*The motion carries unanimously.*

Chairs of Finance and Operations Committees (Discussion)

Discussion document drafted by the Chair.

- **Sheldon** gave brief history of the finance and budget committee and how the new finance committee and the old budget committee carry out different roles
- Discussed how these differences possibly allude to a reason as to why the finance committee chair might be VP finance
- **Ryan** led a discussion on various conflicts that arise when executives are in charge of the Finance committee, Chris suggested a counter for this conflicts this with the example of
Advocacy committee allowing executives as not voting members to serve on the finance committee and how this would allow for more knowledge bring brought into the meetings
- Sheldon brought up the code
- Georgia suggested taking inspiration and guidance from advocacy committee for Operations committee and how this can affect finance committee for executives becoming voting members and the conflict behind it
- Sebastian raised the question of if a chair that is not executive with past experience, are they able to perform as well as someone that has had a position of VP finance before?
- Chris commented on how it’s unlikely to have a “bad” chair, it would mainly be an issue of productivity or punctuality of documents for the rest of the committee.
- Georgia mentioned how we since we already have the budget created, we can definitely move forward with both finance and operations committee with executive support
- Sheldon discussed how the previous edits of the code has made it that VP finance must be on finance committee,
- Georgia has suggested that the VP finance to be able to elect themselves as chair on the finance committee, but not necessarily a rule, as well as allowing committee members to self elect that it must be as well as there is the option of not changing code
- Georgia also reminded the amount of workload that the VP finance faces and how it might be best to not chair and have additional workload as having to run the meetings and that relieves that pressure
- Sebastian discussed the timeline of how this decision should be made:
- Georgia discussed how it would be beneficial to spearhead in order to make it so it’s clear by the time of the committee appointments
- Sebastian suggested seeking out to reaching out to people who were involved in the finance committee as the VP finance or as a committee member or both to gain further insight into how this decision can be made

At 5:30 the Governance Committee voted to move forward with Code changes, allowing both executives and non-executives to chair, with the changes coming into effect by September.

Constituency Membership (Discussion)

Previous Govcomm Chair Katherine Westerlund has been invited to share her thoughts and experiences with Constituency Membership at 4:30pm.

- Kathrine discussed how last year the ad hoc agreement between VSEUS and AUS, discussing how various students in their constituencies were not represented or doubly represented
- The ways in which we decide who is in our constituencies is not necessarily very defined and helpful. These barriers to constituencies allow conflicts arise such as 1) physical representation on our board at AMS and how some are actually lacking any at all 2) students in the same situation end up paying different student fees, at the discretion of UBC (Example engineering
constituency is fairly straightforward); there are cases such as being a dual major in Sciences and Arts where student fees can get quite complicated
- Discrepancies between how some students can be in the same situation and yet paying different student fees and how this becomes problematic when it becomes a pattern
- Discussed how her and Stephanie last year had began to work on a document of the list of degrees and constituencies and how that way once UBC has access to it would be able to see exactly who is charged what fee, which elections they should be voting in, what constituency they are in
- **Sebastian:** How many students do you think this issue affects?
- Kathrine brings up the example of AUS election error which resulted in a minimum of 8000 approx students being misrepresented
- Major groups that should be discussed would be the AUS, VSE and GSS, in addition to drafting a document of dual degree fees so that we have a straightforward distribution of fees and defining constituency
- Ryan brought up the CUS and the representation of their fees due to being in two different constituencies technically due to affordability
- Kathrine discusses various possibilities, one being cheap or zero cost student fees if students in CUS are unable or unwilling to pay the dual degree fees
- **Ryan:** Are any current certificate or diploma program represented by the AMS?
- Kathrine discussed how she believes that it was that diploma programs are more considered then the students in the certificate program
- Ryan: Has it ever happened where a student didn’t have a constituency and when we matched them with a constituency, they were not wanted?
- Kathrine, it hasn’t happened yet but in the example of bringing students into the CUS there will be issues that arise from the fact that the CUS wants exclusively bcomm student as well as that they pay increased fees to be a member of the CUS
- Ryan discussed how he believes there should be further research into a miscellaneous constituency and how this might benefit the issue of representation

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is July 7, 2020.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36pm